

Listing of the Claims:

The listing of claims below, wherein underlining indicates additions and strikethrough or double bracketing indicates deletions, will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

1. **(Original)** A method of switching a source for an audiovisual program configured for distribution among a plurality of user terminals, comprising:

- receiving a first real-time digital bitstream and a second real-time digital bitstream, said source being said first real-time digital bitstream;
- receiving a request from a remote controller operative to switch said source of said audiovisual program;
- switching said source to said second real-time digital bitstream in response to said request; ~~and~~
- adjusting time stamp data in said second real-time digital bitstream to provide a continuous time base for said audiovisual program;
- receiving a return request from said remote controller operative to return said source to said first real-time digital bitstream;
- returning said source to said first real-time digital bitstream in response to said return request; and
- adjusting time stamp data in said first real-time digital bitstream to maintain said continuous time base for said audiovisual program.

2-4. **(Cancelled)**

5. **(Original)** The method of claim 1, wherein said request indicates an indefinite substitution period, and wherein the method further comprises:

- receiving an additional real-time digital bitstream;

receiving an additional request from said remote controller operative to switch said source of said audiovisual program;

switching said source to said additional real-time digital bitstream in response to said additional request; and

adjusting time stamp data in said additional real-time digital bitstream to maintain said continuous time base for said audiovisual program.

6. **(Original)** The method of claim 5, further comprising:
returning said source to said first real-time digital bitstream; and
adjusting time stamp data in said first real-time digital bitstream to maintain said continuous time base for said audiovisual program.

7. **(Original)** The method of claim 1, wherein said request is in a format compliant with SCTE-30.

8. **(Currently amended)** The method of claim 1, wherein each of said first real-time digital ~~bitstream~~ bitstream and said second real-time digital bitstream comprises a live feed from a feed network.

9. **(Original)** The method of claim 1, wherein said switching comprises:
splicing at least one of an audio stream, a video stream, and an ancillary data stream in said second real-time digital bitstream with a respective at least one of an audio stream, a video stream, and an ancillary data stream in said first real-time digital bitstream.

10. **(Original)** The method of claim 9, wherein said splicing is performed without decoding said first real-time digital bitstream and said second real-time digital bitstream.

11. **(Original)** The method of claim 9, further comprising:
adjusting the bit-rate of said second real-time digital bitstream for a pre-defined period in response to said splicing.
12. **(Original)** The method of claim 1, wherein said adjusting step comprises:
obtaining a first time stamp for said first real-time digital bitstream and a second time stamp for said second real-time digital bitstream;
computing an offset using said first time stamp and said second time stamp; and
adding said offset to additional time stamps within said second real-time digital bitstream.
13. **(Original)** The method of claim 12, further comprising:
identifying a first time-of-measurement for said first time stamp and a second time-of-measurement for said second time stamp;
wherein said offset is further computed using said first time-of-measurement and said second time-of-measurement.
14. **(Currently amended)** The method of claim 13, wherein said offset is computed as:
$$TOM_2 - TOM_1 + TS_1 - TS_2,$$

where TOM_2 represents said second time-of-measurement, $TO[[A]]M_1$ represents said first time-of-measurement, TS_1 represents said first time stamp, and TS_2 represents said second time stamp.
15. **(Original)** The method of claim 13, wherein each of said first time stamp and said second time stamp is a program clock reference (PCR) time stamp.
16. **(Currently amended)** Apparatus for switching a source of an audiovisual program configured for distribution among a plurality of user terminals, comprising:

a first interface for receiving a first real-time digital bitstream;
a second interface for receiving a second real-time digital bitstream;
a third interface for receiving request data from a remote controller, said request data operative to switch said source of said audiovisual program;
a switch circuit for switching said source between said first real-time digital bitstream and said second real-time digital bitstream in response to said request data, wherein said switch circuit is configured to switch said source to said second real-time digital bitstream in response to a request from said remote controller for an indefinite period, and to return said source to said first real-time digital bitstream in response to a return request from said remote controller; and
a time stamp adjustment circuit for adjusting time stamp data in a bitstream mapped to said audiovisual program to provide a continuous time base therefor.

17-18. **(Cancelled)**

19. **(Original)** The apparatus of claim 16, wherein said third interface is configured to receive request data in a format compliant with SCTE-30.

20. **(Currently amended)** A distribution system for providing an audiovisual program to a plurality of user terminals, comprising:

a first interface for receiving a first real-time digital bitstream;
a second interface for receiving a second real-time digital bitstream;
a remote controller for generating request data operative to switch a source of said audiovisual program;
a switching device, coupled to said remote controller, said first interface, and said second interface, said switching device including:
a switch circuit for switching said source between said first real-time digital bitstream and said second real-time digital bitstream in response to said request data, wherein said switch circuit is configured to switch said source to

said second real-time digital bitstream in response to a request from said remote controller for an indefinite period, and to return said source to said first real-time digital bitstream in response to a return request from said remote controller; and
a time stamp adjustment circuit for adjusting time stamp data in a bitstream mapped to said audiovisual program to provide a continuous time base therefor.

21. **(Original)** The system of claim 20, wherein said remote controller is configured to generate said request data in a format compliant with SCTE-30.

22. **(Original)** The system of claim 20, wherein said remote controller is coupled to said switching device via a transmission control protocol/internet protocol (TCP/IP) network.

23. **(Original)** The system of claim 20, wherein each of said first real-time digital bitstream and said second real-time digital bitstream comprises a live feed from a feed network.

24-25. **(Cancelled)**

26. **(Currently amended)** Apparatus for switching a source of an audiovisual program configured for distribution among a plurality of user terminals, comprising:
means for receiving a first real-time digital bitstream and a second real-time digital bitstream, said source being said first real-time digital bitstream;
means for receiving a request from a remote controller operative to switch said source of said audiovisual program;
means for switching said source to said second real-time digital bitstream in response to said request; and

means for adjusting time stamp data in said second real-time digital bitstream to provide a continuous time base for said audiovisual program[[.]];

means for receiving a return request from said remote controller operative to return said source to said first real-time digital bitstream;

means for returning said source to said first real-time digital bitstream in response to said return request; and

means for adjusting time stamp data in said first real-time digital bitstream to maintain said continuous time base for said audiovisual program.